


Referring now to the Office Action, the Examiner pointed out that in paper #2, Applicants state that the application is a Continuation of Serial No. 08/460,560, filed June 2, 1995, now abandoned. The Examiner further added that this continuation data fails to establish a U.S. filing within 12 months of Applicants' foreign filing dating back to 1992. Applicants respectfully submit that the Preliminary Amendment filed January 25, 1999 inadvertently omitted a reference to a Divisional application of Serial No. 08/037,162, filed March 25, 1993 and now U.S. Patent No. 5,468,987. Accordingly, the specification has been amended, as shown above, to complete the continuing application data and to show U.S. filing within 12 months of Applicants' foreign filing priority dates of March 27, 1992, April 6, 1992, and April 17, 1992 for JP 4-102202, JP 4-113027, and JP 4-124324, respectively.

In view of the amendment to the specification submitted above, Applicants have predated the Wakai reference. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request all pending 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 103(a) rejections over Wakai in the Office Action be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

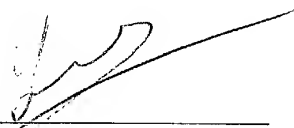
Having responded to all rejections set forth in the outstanding non-Final Office Action, it is submitted that claims 1-22 are now in condition for allowance. An early and favorable Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. In the event that the Examiner is of the opinion that a



brief telephone or personal interview will facilitate allowance of one or more of the above claims, the Examiner is courteously requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

By


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VERSION SHOWING CHANGES MADE IN THE SPECIFICATION

In the first paragraph in page 1 of the specification, please amend as follows:

This application is a Divisional application of Serial No. 08/841,638, filed April 30, 1997; which is a Continuation application of Serial No. 08/460,560, filed June 2, 1995, now abandoned; which is a Divisional application of Serial No. 08/037,162, filed March 25, 1993 and now U.S. Patent No. 5,468,987.